



NEWS RELEASE

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Border Patrol Canine Units Sniff Out Drugs Along Border

TUCSON, Ariz. — On two separate occasions Wednesday, Border Patrol canine units located illegal drugs being smuggled into the United States.

At approximately 1:30 p.m., a Sonoita canine unit began tracking foot sign of several persons that had apparently crossed illegally into the United States near the International border southeast of Sonoita, Ariz. The agent followed the footprints up the trail to a spot where his service canine partner alerted to the scent of people or contraband. The agent began to search the area and found 18 double bundles of marijuana hidden in the brush. The agent secured the scene and summoned the assistance of several other agents in the area. The agents conducted a further search of the area, but were unable to locate any of the individuals involved. The drugs were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

In the second incident, shortly after noon, agents from Nogales responded to activity near Amado. They made contact with a truck towing a horse trailer along Arivaca Road. The truck was stopped in the roadway. A subsequent interview of the driver and search of the trailer by a service canine unit, produced more than 202 pounds of marijuana. The drugs were hidden in a compartment between the tack and horse compartments. The driver, the drugs, the pick-up and horse trailer, were all turned over to the DEA.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year Oct. 1, the Nogales station has been responsible for 6,921 apprehensions of undocumented aliens and the seizure of 16,593 pounds of marijuana. In Sonoita, agents have been responsible for 724 apprehensions and the seizure of 21,664 pounds of marijuana. These totals are part of the Tucson Sector total apprehensions of 45,651 since Oct. 1, and the seizure of 79,741 pounds of marijuana.

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